

KARO-ECHO Meeting

9 September 2019

Arlington Park Clubhouse

Present

NI6A	Don Simon
KJ6AAT	David Swanson
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey
KN6BVF	David Naisuler
KN6CRP	Robin Mitchell
KN6CMR	Susan Yeaman
K6KOP	Jerry Michaels
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske
KC6OBK	Marian Gade
KK6PPR	Davis Todhunter
KK6RED	Diane Richwine
KJ6SWK	Annette McCoubrey
KM6UBY	Edward Carney
KM6UCF	Natalie DeJarlais
KJ6WSS	Jay Fenton
AC6ZF	Zenon Fortuna
KK6ZPM	Karen Leong Fenton

Training Exercise

Scenario: 7.0 Earthquake on the Hayward fault centered in San Pablo Bay, 0200 hours. Hwy 4 closed; bridges closed (San Rafael, Carquinez, etc.). Landlines, cell towers, electricity out, internet out..

What do you do?

- Put shoes on
- Check the home and family
- Possibly turn off gas (depending)
- Could try battery powered radio (KCBS), but there would be limited information, if anything.
- Turn radio to 146.415; ask if anyone is on the frequency, and assume the role of net control if you're the first one there. This is why it's good to practice being net control. Three hams constitute a net.
- When you check into a net, you're effectively volunteering to help and you're ready for assignments.
- Emergency coordinator (or assistant) or net control would dispatch hams to various

hubs or ICPs (incident command posts). We have 17 designated ICPs in El Cerrito/ Kensington, including the EOC (emergency operations center at El Cerrito City Hall) and fire stations. If CERT teams & coordinators aren't at the ICPs, then we can't do the job. We have enough hams to dispatch to the 17 areas, assuming we know all the locations.

- NCS (net control station) or EC (emergency coordinator) gathers MM (Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale, or "mike mike") reports from various areas of Kensington/ EC.
- Net control makes tactical assignments starting with the EOC. Then NCS or EC dispatches hams to CERT Area CP (command posts) to interface with their CERT Hub IC (Incident Commanders) and set up a message center with the CERT area ICP GMRS operator(s).
 - NCS (net control station)
 - EOC (emergency operations center)
 - EC 9 (El Cerrito area 9)
 - EC 8
 - EC 1
 - EC5
 - EC4
 - Ken 1 (Kensington area 1)
 - Ken 6
 - Ken 3
 - Mobile 1 (Mobile operator)
- When you arrive at your post, check into the NCS to let them know you have arrived.
- Question: If you're on the radio from home and you don't hear anyone from your area, is it appropriate to begin gathering data on damage assessment from any neighborhoods so we can relay? Technically, the emergency coordinator should be doing this. If that's not happening, go ahead with data collection, but move to another frequency, or GMRS. Ask permission to go to another frequency to run a subnet. Net control can continue to send others there. Gather MMI (mike-mike) scale reports along with location.
- Optimally, there will be one person on FRS, another on GMRS, and a message center manager who takes in the messages to consolidate and prioritize, and direct them. Sometimes it falls to a ham to take care of this.
- Message Center handling is critical when there are non-concise, chaotic messages coming in via FRS & GMRS. The messages need to be filtered, made more concise, prioritized, and a determination made whether the message should go to the EOC, be tossed, or other. Life or death situations constitute priority traffic.
- Top priority: get the messages through. Be concise and direct. If the paperwork falls by the wayside, so be it. Let go of forms if things are chaotic and you just can't keep up with them.
- On the ICS 309-KARO-ECHO form, the message section is for a very brief synopsis (e.g., "damage on Cutting.")
- Incident commanders will be busy, but need to be kept informed about what's

- happening on the blocks and at the EOC. The hams keep that person informed.
- Be ready to calm people down.

Action Item:

We should arrange a field trip to EOC so that people know how to run the equipment there. The people most familiar with the equipment may not be able to get there.

There was only enough time for a brief message handling exercise. More practice is warranted.

Business and general items

- Harding Park and Tassajara Park clubhouses are not accessible. Currently, there are no KARO-ECHO accessible operating centers other than the three fire stations and the EOC. We're waiting from City agencies regarding access to clubhouses.
- Retrofit completion of the Kensington Community Center will take several months more. The KCC antenna is down and the radio equipment is stored at FS-65. Hilltop School and Fire station radios are still functional.
- We need a storage location for the Go Kart, ideally in a central location where it's out of the weather but accessible to a ham who could take it as needed. It's roughly the size of two golf bags, three feet tall, with wheels. It is heavy. Davis might consider storing the Go Kart and will follow up with Don and Hal; other options are also welcome.
- Jay passed around photos showing initial work to set up solar voltaic panels and battery backup at the WA6KQB repeater site (the 4cs Club repeater). He would like help standing up the framework to mount the panels. On the 28th, Howdy will help put solar panels on the framework. Monetary contributions for the project are welcome.
- The letter to all El Cerrito & Kensington hams was prepared for mailing prior to the meeting and will be mailed by the Fire Department. Approximately 145 letters will go out, inviting participation from local licensed hams. Treasurer Larry will handle the snail mail; Rob and Don will review the resulting spreadsheet data from the online form.
- Representing EBARC, Jay and Karen put on CERT regalia and set up a dual band (ham and GMRS) station at Camp Hermes to demo for visiting scouts. Jay thinks it could be good to show at future Boy Scout events. Ken Fowler arranged for ham demos and a tour of the USS Hornet, an aircraft carrier in Alameda. Ken has a history of doing scout training for the Radio Merit Badge, and can share that information with us.
- CERT survey - Hal said that there are a lot of responses to the recent survey, but in a database format that Hal can't read. Howdy will take a look so that we can see the information about radio interest. If there is interest, we will discuss reaching out to

folks.

- Planning & coordination - fall SET. Don and Howdy would like to do another SET in October, which would take approximately 3 hours. Howdy and Don agree that if EC/Kensington CERT don't want to participate, we need to just do it ourselves. We want to train people to serve their communities within the blocks and areas and the city EOC. If we do a mutual aid and self reliance drill, that will be more valuable than sending situational awareness information (damage assessments from each area) to the county.
- All the CERT orgs in Contra Costa County (Lamorinda, Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek, San Ramon) are more active than West County. They have a drill called "Light up the Bay," with involvement by CERT people, their city EOCs, County EOC, and first responders. West County is the only CERT area without an active operational and integrated CERT team with back up auxiliary comms and city wide exercises..
- If we participate in Light Up The Bay, we can send our hams to ICPs and have some ERT (emergency response team) personnel involved to make up and send messages with FRS/GMRS. Hams would move messages to city EOC, and then other hams would move messages to county EOC. If we don't have the CERT interface, then we'll do our own drill in October. Weather would be better in October.
- Richmond is going to participate in the Light Up the Bay exercise if Genevieve (head of Richmond OES - Office of Emergency Services) is amenable, which David thinks she will be.
- Hal suggested that we focus on our own SET. If we don't do the Light up the Bay exercise, we'll do mutual aid, net operations, messaging to EOC, etc. This can be applied to any community. We'll check with Grupalo and Hilliard over the next week, and learn whether CERT will be participating in Light Up the Bay. If they are, we'll participate. If they won't, we'll do a KaroEcho October SET.
- David attended a mass fire evacuation drill in Berkeley, and noted that a lot of people walked to evacuate, rather than using cars.

Don moved to adjourn; Marian seconded.